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Jonathan Dwight Jr.

[From 'THE AUK,' Vol. X, No 1, January, 1893.]

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THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. X. JANUARY, 1893. NO. 1.

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LYING in the southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, its low outlines just visible from the mainland, is Prince Edward Island, called by some one the 'Garden of the Gulf.' Compared with the rugged Labrador or Cape Breton coasts of the Gulf, this patch of green on the surrounding blue waters might to a fervid imagination suggest the appellation of garden, but when the climate, with its long winters and brief summers, and the limited productions of the island are taken into account, not to mention the semi-civilized aspect of much of the country, the name of garden does not strike the beholder as particularly descriptive. However, it is not my present purpose to do more than indicate the salient features of the island's topography and flora, that my fellow ornithologists may follow me the more understandingly in my endeavor to introduce to them the avifauna of a considerable area hitherto neglected by our fraternity. Anticosti, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and particularly the Magdalen Islands have all been visited, but Prince Edward Island has been passed by, probably because it seemed to offer fewer attractions than these wilder, rougher islands.

Notwithstanding the probability that I should only meet with

birds whose acquaintance I had already made in other parts of Canada, I nevertheless devoted a couple of weeks last summer to exploring the island, and am now able to say what species are characteristic summer residents; and a few words about them may not come amiss to those of us who may be familiar with them only during the migration seasons.

The length of my stay was from June 23 to July 9, and by means of the narrow-gauge railroad, supplemented by horse power, I visited both extremities of the island, making Tignish and Souris my headquarters. The remarkable feat of connecting these places by 167 miles of railroad has been accomplished (the air line distance is less than 100 miles), the promoters of the road being desirous no doubt that each feature of the landscape should be viewed by the travelling public from at least three different points of the compass. I also stopped at intermediate points. The weather was favorable, mostly bright, the raw winds from the northeast and the brief rainstorms peculiar to the Gulf being the only disagreeable features, and these were less pronounced as July advanced and the sun gained power. What the climate must be in the winter time, when a belt of ice extending as far as the eye can reach surrounds the island, and binds it to the mainland by ever shifting floes, can only be inferred from the chilling breath of the northerly breezes that in summer sweep over the frigid water of the Gulf. The ice is said to disappear in April and spring opens, but the summer is brief and chiefly confined to the months of July and August. Brant regularly remain till the 8th of June. With such a backward spring and such a cool and brief summer it is not surprising that agriculture, beyond the production of hay, potatoes and oats, does not flourish. Corn is rarely attempted, and usually suffers by early frost.

Prince Edward Island has the form of an irregular crescent, the concavity to the northward. It embraces an area of 2133 square miles. Its extreme length from East Point to West Point is about one hundred and twenty miles, and its width would probably average about twenty miles, for the coast line is very much indented by bays. By means of them it is, roughly speaking, cut into three sections. The westernmost is the narrowest, the width increasing eastward to nearly forty miles, the island tapering off again to a point at its eastern extremity.

The geological formation of the island is a red, crumbling sandstone that gives rise to low bluffs ten to twenty feet high along the coast, these reaching a height of sixty or seventy feet at some points, notably near North Cape, at East Point, and on the north shore near New London. The bluffs (or 'clifts' as they are called by the natives) are practically perpendicular, the waves eating them away below, and usually there is a gravelly beach of detritus at their base. They are often guttered by streams, and sloping down, parallel to the water's edge, may be replaced by reaches of gravel or sand, or perhaps low islands, behind which are found lagoons and salt marshes, but in a few miles, perhaps in a few hundred yards, they may again unexpectedly rise to considerable height. The wind-swept sand beaches are chiefly along the north shore, interrupted at times by the red bluffs; and although there is always a perceptible reddish tinge to the sand, it is surprising how white it may become in some localities. The drifted sand-hills, fringed with more or less scanty grass, suggested the possibility of finding the Ipswich Sparrow, and yet my efforts were unrewarded, the Savanna Sparrows met with in such places being in no wise lighter-colored than those of adjacent fields.

A green belt of farming country encircles the island, the pastures in many places extending to the very edge of the bluffs, and back of them the land is slightly rolling, nowhere reaching any considerable altitude. The only marked inequalities are due to the erosion of small brooks, and the general effect is that of a flat country. In the central section, the best settled, the farms extend from shore to shore and have succeeded the forest that once clothed the whole island. The timber has been nearly all cut, and no large bodies remain except in the western and eastern sections, where bears, still surviving in limited numbers, indicate the nature of the unsettled tracts. A few 'blueberry barrens' were noticed. Most of the island appears to be well drained and comparatively dry. I met with no extensive swamps, nor are the shores of the fresh water lagoons and lakes (particularly abundant near East Point) especially swampy. The lagoons have been made by the damming back of small streams behind the sandbars formed by the wearing away of the bluffs. At Tignish the woods were in patches interrupted by fields, this style of country being characteristic of a large part of the island. It rep-

resents here as elsewhere the spreading of civilization that destroys utterly the forest of its own generation and takes no thought for the possible necessities of the future. Before the woodman's axe, the evergreen forest has melted away in many parts of our continent never to return, its place being taken, as is well known, by deciduous trees, they suffering in their turn, and this process is now well advanced even on Prince Edward Island.

The native trees are chiefly coniferæ and more than nine tenths of them spruce (*Picea nigra* and *P. alba*) and fir (*Abies balsamea*). Among the more abundant deciduous trees are maples (chiefly *Acer saccharinum*), birches (*Betula lenta*, *B. lutea*, and *B. papyrifera*, all in considerable numbers), beeches (*Fagus ferruginea*), and some of the willows and poplars. Of the shrubs the heath family is well represented, especially by the genera *Vaccinium* (blueberries), *Ledum* (Labrador tea), and *Kalmia* (*K. angustifolia*, sheep laurel). Alders are generally distributed. As to the herbaceous plants, they are those of the northern woods and fields. It is said that some plants of the adjacent mainland are not found on the island. In other words, the twenty miles or so of the Straits of Northumberland act as a barrier to the possible tinge of more southern forms, and the same may influence the northward range of certain species of birds more or less common on the mainland. One may find fragrant banks of the tiny, nodding *Linnæa*, pastures red with sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), swamps blue with iris (*Iris versicolor*), clearings green with coarse ferns, beneath which gray mosses and clumps of the scarlet bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) may be found, and the dark evergreen woods are carpeted with the greenest of mosses. There are many other trees and bushes, notably larch (*Larix americana*) and arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis*) which are rather common locally, but they are not especially conspicuous features, and I merely wish to call attention to certain parts of the flora to indicate in a very general way its character. There are many tracts of second-growth, usually almost wholly beech or maple which, if small, are shunned by birds, and nowhere can one wander far without entering tracts of timber, from which perhaps only the larger trees have been culled. When fire runs through timber, dead and blackened trunks are left that in a few years become, by the rotting away of their branches, the monoto-

nous dead stubs of the northern landscape. Prince Edward Island is, however, remarkably free from such tracts, having passed this period of primitive civilization. One way of clearing land, especially if it is covered with second-growth spruce, is to cut down everything and then let fire do its work when the brush is a little dry, so it is no wonder forest fires are easily started. After fire has swept through a clearing, raspberry bushes (*R. strigosus*) and the willow-herb or 'fire weed' (*Epilobium angustifolium*) are certain to spring up, although apparently there may have been none for miles, coarse ferns soon multiply, and in time the old stumps and fallen, half-charred logs are covered with mosses and lichens, while the ground, if not cultivated, is soon hidden by many sorts of plants and grasses. In such spots the White-throated Sparrow and the Slate-colored Junco find their favorite haunts, and here the Hermit Thrush makes its nest near the edge of the woods, and sings from some favorite tree. Perhaps an Olive-sided Flycatcher may be heard whistling from the top of the tallest dead tree to be found in or near the clearing, or a Wood Pewee may wander out from a bit of open woods of mixed growth near by, where also may be heard a Parula Warbler or a Red-eyed Vireo. If maples, birches, and beeches predominate, Ovenbirds will be found, and the larger the growth the more probability there is of finding the Black-throated Blue Warbler. The Winter Wren and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher abide in the dense evergreen woods along mossy brooks where few other birds disturb the quiet, save perhaps wandering Warblers or Thrushes. In clearings grown up with small spruces Magnolia Warblers always abound, and if these trees are of considerable size there are sure to be Olive-backed Thrushes, Black-throated Green and Myrtle Warblers. The Nashville Warbler is usually found in the detached, ragged bits of mixed woods, which the Magnolia and Myrtle Warblers also frequent, together with Redstarts and Thrushes. Such in brief are some of the characteristic birds of the woods, and such their favorite haunts, though their tastes of course may vary and some, such as the Hudsonian and Black-capped Chickadees, the Woodpeckers, and the Golden-crowned Kinglets, are almost sure to be found in unexpected places.

Then there are damp bushy tracts where the bushes may be waist high and an occasional arbor vitæ or larch rises above the smaller growth. Here one may seek Canadian and Wilson's

Warblers and Maryland Yellowthroats, while swampy alders suggest the probability of finding Traill's Flycatchers and Swamp Sparrows. If a brook passes through the alders, Water-thrushes may be heard, but it is no easy matter to get even a glimpse of them.

The birds of the fields are numerous, the Savanna Sparrow probably outnumbering all the others put together. Vesper Sparrows and Song Sparrows abound, while the Robin and Flicker are more frequently seen in the open than elsewhere. Crows stalk about in every field, though their nests are in the woods. Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Crossbills and Cedarbirds are generally seen on the wing in the open country, and flying higher than the Swallows (Barn, Bank, and White-bellied) which most frequently are noticed skimming along near the ground or over the surface of a sheet of water.

Long familiarity with the notes and habits of the birds of the Maritime Provinces enabled me to accomplish much more than if I had been a stranger to them, and even though my stay was brief, I feel confident that those species that escaped my attention were either exceedingly rare or did not occur in the localities I visited. All males were in full song, and females startled from their nests lost no time in beginning to scold. I was in the field from morning till night, and my gun with its auxilliary was a trusty friend. Of a previous visit to the island in 1876 little need be said, for the egg fever was on me at that time and the finding of a Junco's nest was sufficient to satisfy my ambition for several days.

While in Charlottetown I examined a hundred or more birds stuffed by Prof. S. N. Earle, but unfortunately they lacked data and are therefore of little use in the present connection. From him, however, I obtained much interesting information. Some notes upon the winter birds of the island have been published by Mr. Bain (Auk, II, 1885, pp. 262–267).

I present here a list that embraces only the species that have come under my own observation, but it includes most of the birds that make their summer home on Prince Edward Island, the fauna of which is thoroughly Canadian.

Cepphus grylle. BLACK GUILLEMOT. — The 'Sea Pigeons' used to breed in great numbers in the cliffs at various points along the coast. I have no doubt that they still do so in smaller numbers, although the only positive

evidence I have is the fact that I saw a dozen or more of the birds about a cliff near New London on the north shore of the island, and heard the young 'squealing' in inaccessible crevices. This cliff, extending for perhaps half a mile, is probably the highest on the island, and is almost sheer to the water seventy or eighty feet below. No beach here intervenes between its base and the waves which in times of storm beat so fiercely against it that it is justly dreaded by mariners as one of the most dangerous spots on the north shore of the island. Its crumbling face, to the very brink of which the green fields above extend, affords ledges and seams where the 'Sea Pigeons' find secure nesting places, and are said to be "plenty." I devoted only one day to exploring this locality and did not see many birds. They were in small parties or pairs, floating upon or skimming over the water, or quietly sitting upon some ledge, the white wing-patch conspicuous against the red background of rock as viewed from a boat. Their black bodies were comparatively inconspicuous owing to shadows. At Tignish a boy told me he had found a nest the previous year in the low bluffs of the north shore, and I think they may breed in the high cliffs southwest of North Cape, although I could not make thorough search. I also saw a pair at East Point where again are high cliffs, sixty feet or more in height.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. AMERICAN HERRING GULL. — A few were seen from time to time, but I could find no evidence that they bred on the island. Birds of such powerful flight might well wander in the course of a day many miles from their breeding grounds.

Sterna hirundo. COMMON TERN. — It is probable that this species, known as the 'Mackerel Gull,' is the only Tern resident during the summer months, and it is abundant at many points, particularly the sandy reaches of the north shore. I visited a colony near Souris July 7, consisting of perhaps seventy-five pairs. Several nests found contained three eggs each, and were the usual depressions in the plains of drifted sand, protected possibly by a few blades of coarse beach-grass and in one case by a few wisps of grass wound round the edge of the hollow. The birds were reserved in their demeanor, but did not hesitate to expose themselves to the danger of firearms when their nests were examined. Their dainty plumage and easy flight always seem out of keeping with their harsh voices. It is pleasant to visit a colony of Terns and realize it has escaped the persecutions of the milliners, for perhaps no one genus of birds has been more thoroughly exterminated in certain sections of our country than has *Sterna*, thanks to Dame Fashion's inexorable decrees. I was told that this species made its appearance each spring with wonderful regularity on the north shore — usually May 22 — and always between May 21 and 24.

Phalacrocorax ———? Two birds were seen at New London, July 2, perched on a cliff white with their chalkings, but they could not be approached. I was told that 'Shags' were often seen on this rock, but were not thought to breed there. Whether *carbo* or *dilophus* it is impossible for me to say.

Anas obscura. BLACK DUCK. — This is the only Duck of whose presence I have conclusive evidence. I saw a brood on a fresh water lake near Souris, and I found dried up on the sand one day the carcass of an adult. In several other localities I heard of nests having been found.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN. — A tolerably common bird in suitable localities, and known by the name of 'Mud-hen.'

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON. — I learned of at least two heronries of this bird, but did not visit them. One near Charlottetown was described to me as containing several hundred birds. The nests were in hard-wood growth, and were warranted to contain young each year by July 4. The Herons were seen at many points on the island, notably along St. Peter's Bay, where I saw upwards of twenty as the train skirted the shore. They paid little or no attention to it, although often less than a gun-shot distant.

Philohela minor. AMERICAN WOODCOCK. — The sportsmen are acquainted with this bird but it is considered rare. I saw a stuffed specimen, and well recollect the one I shot at I don't know how many times when I visited Hunter River in 1876. The country about there is better suited to it than much of the ground visited this time. The partiality of the Woodcock for clean alder swamps still obtains on Prince Edward Island.

Gallinago delicata. WILSON'S SNIPE. — This species breeds, sparingly I fancy, at suitable places on the island. I saw a young bird in first plumage among Prof. Earle's birds and talked with several men who had found nests. The tussocks in boggy places along brooks seem to be the usual site — in one case a nest was found in a bunch of iris.

Actitis macularia. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — Generally distributed along brooks in the open country and fairly common. A nest was found in an odd situation at Tignish. It was under a decayed log on a boggy slope, and was carefully lined with bits of rotten wood.

Ægialitis meloda. PIPING PLOVER. — Frequented the sandy or gravelly beaches in considerable numbers.

Bonasa umbellus togata. CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE. — A few only were met with, although said to be abundant. A novel method of hunting them reached my ears. They come out upon the railroad in a certain section to sun themselves, and it is said the sportsman riding to and fro on a track-velocipede shoots them so that sometimes he can pick them up without stopping. I was informed by gunners that *Dendragapus canadensis* does not inhabit the island.

Circus hudsonius. MARSH HAWK. — Birds of this species were occasionally seen, recognizable at long distances by the white bar on the tail. It was almost the only Bird of Prey met with.

Aquila chrysaëtos. GOLDEN EAGLE. — I examined a live specimen in young plumage, captured June 23, in a fox trap set for it, near New London. The man who caught it thought there was a nest near by in a piece of woods, and expected to trap the old birds as well, one of which he had seen. After visiting the locality I am inclined to doubt whether the bird was bred on the island. Eagles are considered rare birds there by all the

people with whom I talked, and probably stray from wilder regions, such, for instance, as Cape Breton.

Falco columbarius. PIGEON HAWK. — A bird that I took to be this species was seen one day. Prof. Earle showed me a stuffed specimen.

Pandion haliaëtos carolinensis. AMERICAN OSPREY. — Seen both at Tignish and Souris in limited numbers.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. — One specimen obtained at Tignish is the only evidence I have of its occurrence on the island.

Ceryle alcyon. BELTED KINGFISHER. — Tolerably common, making its home in holes dug into the sand stratum that overlies the rock of the bluffs along the shores.

Dryobates villosus. HAIRY WOODPECKER. — Occasionally observed. There seemed to be a great dearth of Woodpeckers, the Flicker alone excepted. Dead trees did not abound, still there were a great many of them scattered here and there.

Dryobates pubescens. DOWNY WOODPECKER. — The only birds I chanced to meet were a family at Souris occupying a hole thirty feet from the ground in a dead maple of large dimensions. The locality was a grove of old maples.

Sphyrapicus varius. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. — This species was also unexpectedly rare and seldom met with.

Ceophlœus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER. — Said to have been formerly common. Prof. Earle showed me a stuffed specimen, but I found no other evidence, save hearsay, of its occurrence. No 'mortise holes' were discovered.

Colaptes auratus. FLICKER. — The only abundant Woodpecker, and found everywhere in moderate numbers. June 25, a nest with fully fledged young was examined in the top of a hollow fence post. No excavation had been made by the bird, and the young were entirely exposed to the weather.

Chordeiles virginianus. NIGHTHAWK. — A few were seen almost every day, frequenting the open clearings or sailing high in the air at sunset.

Chætura pelagica. CHIMNEY SWIFT. — Rather rare, and not often seen. In a country where a majority of the houses have but one chimney, and that chimney in use from one year's end to another's, it is not remarkable that the Chimney Swift still nests in its primitive manner in hollow trees, but it is remarkable how soon it takes kindly to civilization when this has advanced to the point of building houses with a spare-room chimney.

Trochilus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD — Not observed, but undoubtedly occurs. Prof. Earle showed me stuffed specimens.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD. — Rather common, and no doubt greatly enjoys life where there are so many Crows to be harrassed.

Contopus borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. — One specimen was observed at Souris. Prof. Earle was familiar with it.

Contopus virens. WOOD PEWEE. — Not common, though now and then met with in certain localities.

Empidonax flaviventris. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. — Found only at Tignish and in small numbers. The dryness of the other localities visited would partly account for its absence. The scarcity of this and the following species rather surprised me.

Empidonax pusillus traillii. TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. — A few at Tignish in their favorite haunts, the alders, were the only ones met with. It is likely that both this species and the preceding are in some other localities more abundant than my observations would indicate.

Empidonax minimus. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—A cheerful series of 'che-bécs' greeted me one morning at Souris. It is really easier to distinguish this bird from *traillii* by its notes than by the bird in hand, but the bird in hand is, unfortunately perhaps, a scientific necessity. No others were seen.

Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Not abundant, and only occasionally met with. No *Perisoreus canadensis* were even heard of.

[**Corvus corax principalis** RAVEN.—I was told that a pair of Ravens had formerly nested for several years on the face of the cliff at East Point, and while I think my informant could have made no mistake as to the species, I hesitate about admitting a bird to the list on hearsay only.]

Corvus americanus. AMERICAN CROW.—Nowhere, in the breeding season, have I ever seen Crows so abundant and so tame. They were never out of sight or hearing, and they sit on the fences and 'caw' at you derisively as you ride by. Of course their numbers were augmented by young birds, and early in July they were beginning to flock, as indicated by a gathering of nearly a hundred seen July 4. At Tignish there was a roost in a large patch of woods, whither towards sundown and later Crows were seen converging from all directions. In the woods a terrible noise was kept up until it grew dark. The Crows do not molest the farmer to any great extent, as he raises no corn, but I was told they kill young chickens and pick out the eyes of new-born lambs. They daily congregate for a feast in the fields where the refuse of the many lobster-canning establishments is used as a fertilizer.

Scolecophagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—A flock of twenty or more, largely young birds, near East Point July 7, were the only ones seen. I had heard of their occurence elsewhere.

Quiscalus quiscula æneus. BRONZED GRACKLE.—A pair of these birds in Prof. Earle's possession were the only ones he had ever seen, very likely stragglers from the mainland.

Carpodacus purpureus. PURPLE FINCH. — Sparingly distributed, a restless and roving species, and seen singly or in pairs.

Loxia curvirostra minor. AMERICAN CROSSBILL. — Perhaps more abundant than the following species, but the flocks are so often made up of birds of both species, and so much more frequently seen or heard flying overhead rather than allowing a closer examination, that it is difficult to estimate their numbers. At any rate both were occasionally seen in flocks of old and young, sometimes one species predominating (usually the flock was almost entirely made up of one species), sometimes the

other. Although the call notes are quite distinguishable, those of *leucoptera* being harsher, it is no easy matter to determine percentages in chattering flocks of a dozen or more birds. Their favorite feeding haunts were larch trees, and, unless disturbed, they were silent as they hung about the branches in all conceivable attitudes, usually upside down. They also feed on the seeds from the green cones of the fir which are tipped with freshly exuded pitch at this season, if it be a cone year. The pitch often mats on the bills and feathers of the birds. Dissection showed the breeding season to be long past.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. — Rather numerous. The remarks made under the preceding species apply also to this. Neither can be seen every day, for both are great wanderers.

Spinus tristis. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.—A few seen almost daily.

Spinus pinus. PINE SISKIN.—It surprised me to meet with this species but once—a male at Souris. Dissection showed the bird to be breeding.

Poocætes gramineus. VESPER SPARROW.—An abundant bird, frequenting the open fields in the more settled districts.

Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. SAVANNA SPARROW. — It is probably the most abundant bird on the island, and is found everywhere except in woods. On sand beaches, marshes, or dry fields its weak song was constantly to be heard, and in certain pastures it seemed as if every third fence post were occupied by a singer. As an illustration that flying is a matter of practice on the part of young birds, I instance a young Savanna Sparrow that I flushed one windy day in a pasture where the grass was very short. The wind upset all his calculations and himself as well, apparently getting under his wings and turning him upside down every time he started on a fresh flight. He would get along pretty well for a rod or so and then a puff would send him bowling over the sod till he reached a point of fright and exhaustion that left him panting just where he happened to roll.

Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus. ACADIAN SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—A few birds in a salt marsh at Tignish were the only ones I could discover, although I searched in many other localities. As Mr. Wm. Stone found this form abundant at Tignish in 1876 (recorded as *A. caudacutus*, for *subvirgatus* was not then separated, Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., Vol. II, Jan. 1877, p. 28), I was surprised not to find it more abundant. I saw likely ground along East River, but did not have time to explore it, and the birds very possibly may be locally distributed here and at other points also.

Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—This bird so characteristic of the Canadian Fauna is less abundant than the ubiquitous Junco, but on account of its loud and striking song is far better known to the average inhabitant. It is a bird of the clearings, building its nest upon the ground in a bunch of weeds, and singing nearly all of the time it is not occupied scolding intruders. Its well-known song is easily imitated, and it is amusing to see how angry and excited a male will become if he thinks another has strayed into his own domain. The song

is sometimes heard breaking the stillness of the night, and only those who have passed a night in the northern woods can know how profound this stillness may be. The song has given to the bird many local names wherever it occurs, one of the best known being 'Kennedy Bird.' I heard a new version which credits him with saying 'Good Lord, pity me, pity me, pity me.' When the young get on the wing, the song is less frequently heard. The bird is known to the few French settlers of the island as *rossignol* (nightingale).

Spizella socialis. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Not a common species, and only occasionally observed.

Junco hyemalis. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Next to the Savanna Sparrow this is probably the most abundant bird on the island. It is found everywhere,—in dooryards, open fields, fern-clothed clearings, even deep woods. Its nest is on the ground, preferably under something—the bottom rail of a fence or a hole in some grassy bank. Young were just beginning to fly June 23, and a week later nests with fresh eggs indicated a second laying. Its local name is 'Bluebird,' a strange misnomer, even though *Sialia sialis* does not occur.

Melospiza fasciata. SONG SPARROW.— Very abundant and generally distributed. Mr. Bain states that some winter on the island.

Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW.— Rather common in very wet, bushy meadows, with alders here and there, or in open swamps of limited area, such as occur along brooks in cleared country.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. CLIFF SWALLOW.—A common bird, locally distributed, and nesting in colonies under the eaves of barns and houses.

Chelidon erythrogaster. BARN SWALLOW.— Abundant and generally distributed.

Tachycineta bicolor. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.— Fairly abundant, nesting in old Woodpecker holes in clearings, crevices about barns, and the hollow ends of the rails composing the zigzag fences so common on the island. The sudden disappearance of a Swallow as it alighted on a fence was almost startling until I learned that in some deep hollow, decayed out of the heart of an unsplit rail, was a cosy nest of grass and feathers. It was impossible to dislodge the birds that were sometimes out of arm's reach, but several nests examined the last week in June contained young. I have never found this species nesting in such a location before.

Clivicola riparia. BANK SWALLOW.— I perhaps do this species an injustice when I say that it is outnumbered by the Savanna Sparrow and the Junco. I saw colonies of hundreds at several points along the coast, and as every bluff is crowned by a layer of sand, and much of the coast line is a continuous bluff, the Swallows have unrivalled opportunities for nesting places.

Ampelis cedrorum. CEDARBIRD.— Seen now and again, but not common. There is a remarkable similarity between a lisp of this species, a certain note of the Robin, and one of the Hermit Thrush.

Vireo olivaceus. RED-EYED VIREO.—A common and in a few localities an abundant bird, here as elsewhere a tireless songster. It prefers deciduous trees, particularly large maples.

Vireo solitarius. SOLITARY VIREO.—At Souris one day I was attracted by the song of this bird, and soon saw the performer. This was the only specimen observed on the island. I have often met with it on the mainland, and fully expected to find others, as its rich, clear song, disconnected withal in delivery, cannot fail to attract attention.

Mniotilta varia. BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.—Occasionally seen or its 'wiry' song heard, though not very common.

Helminthophila ruficapilla. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—Rather abundant at Tignish and not met with elsewhere. The activity of this bird is highly commendable, unless you are in pursuit of one, when you are not so favorably impressed. Hardly pausing to dash off its lively song, it is one moment at the very top of some tall tree and the next on the ground a hundred yards away where its song breaks forth quite as vigorously. The bird is the embodiment of restlessness.

Compsothlypis americana. PARULA WARBLER.—Infrequently observed and generally in the upper branches of hard-wood forest.

Dendroica æstiva. YELLOW WARBLER.—Rather common and quite as likely to be found among lonely alder thickets as in the trees around houses.

Dendroica cærulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—A few were detected at Souris. I did not see such extensive hard-wood timber anywhere else on the island, and as the species has a decided preference for such localities, its absence elsewhere is perhaps not to be wondered at.

Dendroica coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Common. Their song reminded me of early spring days in lower latitudes. Their favorite haunts were clumps of spruces and firs in partly cleared land.

Dendroica maculosa. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—This is the characteristic Warbler of the region and is abundantly represented. It is most abundant in low growths of spruces, where the variety of its song is often confusing.

Dendroica virens. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Abundant at every place visited where the forest was composed of trees of considerable size.

Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea. YELLOW PALM WARBLER.—An incubating female taken at Tignish is the only evidence I have of this bird's occurrence. The locality was damp, cleared ground, growing up with bushes and small larches.

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVENBIRD.—One was noted at Tignish, and a number at Souris in the hard-wood timber. It is doubtless fairly common in suitable localities.

Seiurus noveboracensis. WATER-THRUSH.—A few were met with at Tignish only. It is a species that but for its loud song would easily escape notice. Invariably found along brooks or in their near vicinity.

Geothlypis philadelphia. MOURNING WARBLER.—Apparently rare, though a few were found at Souris in the bushy edges of dry fields adjoining the woods.

Geothlypis trichas. MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT.—Found sparingly

in the western portion of the island. None were noted at Souris, although I have no doubt they occur there.

Sylvania pusilla. WILSON'S WARBLER.— One specimen was secured at Tignish in an extensive arbor-vitæ and alder swamp. This is a retiring species and is probably not uncommon if particular search be made for it.

Sylvania canadensis. CANADIAN WARBLER. — Rather common about Tignish, but not met with elsewhere, although I have no doubt it occurs in suitable localities.

Setophaga ruticilla. AMERICAN REDSTART. — Abundant. One of its songs might be easily confused with one of *D. maculosa*. The importance of recognizing songs in a region where the denseness of the woods and underbrush renders the sight or capture of the vocalist often well-nigh impossible, is very great, but to depend entirely upon one's ear in identifying birds is a procedure greatly to be deprecated.

Troglodytes hiemalis. WINTER WREN. — Tolerably common in damp woods along brooks, or sometimes in more open localities. On July 6 I met with a family of young birds able to fly. That so minute a bird should produce such a volume of liquid sound is ever to me a source of wonderment. It is often impossible to see the little fellow when he is pouring forth his song right over your head, but those who have ever entered a dense second-growth of spruces, with a wilderness of dead twigs interlacing below, know one of the difficulties that beset the path of the collector in the northern woods.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH. — I had about given up seeing this species at all when I came upon several at Souris, probably a family. They feed usually in the upper boughs of spruces, and seldom run up and down the trunks of trees like their white-breasted brethren. They have a nasal cry of one note, uttered with varying intensity, and never rapidly repeated like the other species. Of course I should not venture such general conclusions as these with regard to this species, nor to others, if they were not based upon further observations made elsewhere.

Parus atricapillus. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. — Occasionally small roving families were encountered, so that it is probably a fairly common species.

Parus hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.—Tolerably common, but not attracting attention to itself so aggressively as does *atricapillus*. However, when it does speak out, it always seems to me to make use of the ungrammatical expression 'It's mé-e,' with a good deal of emphasis on the 'me-e.'

Regulus satrapa. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. — Infrequently observed. Young were on the wing the last of June. It should have proved much more abundant than I found it to be.

Turdus ustulatus swainsonii. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. — Very abundant, almost equalling in numbers the Hermit Thrush. They are usually excessively shy and difficult to obtain, although several may be singing

within hearing at the same time. They frequent thick growths of spruces, and from some commanding perch pour forth their rich song. If they become aware of your approach even a gunshot or more away, they dive down into the dense undergrowth, and a few soft alarm notes are the last you hear of them. Squeaking to them will bring them to you for one brief look, which satisfies them, but not you, for they generally see you first and at close range. Sometimes they sing in the thickets of spruces, but are more apt to have a particular perch, perhaps on some towering, dead tree. I heard no songs that I had any reason to suppose were other than true *swainsonii*, for the possibility of finding *bicknelli* or *alicie* had to be kept constantly in mind. I found no young, even up to the last day of my stay, but that proves nothing with a bird so retiring. They sang more persistently and in greater numbers in the early morning and late evening hours.

Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii. HERMIT THRUSH. — Slightly more abundant than the preceding species, and perhaps more generally distributed. The songs and notes of this species have been so frequently confused with those of other Thrushes, particularly with those of the Olive-backed Thrush, that an effort on my part to call attention to the differences that exist between them may not be without interest. The deliberate character of its song is in marked contrast to that of *swainsonii* and its musical ability is more varied. The usual song dies out without the rising inflection of *swainsonii*, and there is a pause after the first syllable, while in *swainsonii* there is no pause and the second syllable is strongly accented, the whole song being quickly delivered. The Hermit Thrush has also a nasal note of complaint in two ellided syllables, a cluck like a Blackbird, and a lisp not unlike a Cedarbird. The nasal note has its counterpart in *swainsonii* which utters a similar, but more liquid note, and the cluck of *pallasii* may be compared with a 'puk' or 'pink' (as near as it can be represented) of *swainsonii*. The lisp is peculiar to *pallasii*, while there is a queer multiple note of soliloquy peculiar to *swainsonii*.

Merula migratoria. AMERICAN ROBIN. — Very abundant in the more open country. An occasional one is said by Mr. Bain to remain through the winter, subsisting on the berries of the mountain ash.